Thalassemia patients

†647. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of thalassemia patients is on rise in our country;

(b) if so, the arrangements made for prevention of the disease in the hospitals;

(c) whether it is also a fact that sufficient medical resources are not available for treatment of thalassemia patients in the capital city of Delhi; and

(d) if so, the efforts being made by Government in order to make sufficient medical resources available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As reported by Indian Council of Medical Research, there is no Central or State-wise registry to know the exact prevalence of the disease. However based on the data generated by various studies it is estimated that every year about 10000 children are born with the disease in the country.

(b) Prevention of the disease is possible by genetic counseling and prenatal diagnosis, facilities for which are available at very limited centers in the country as the procedure is sophisticated.

(c) and (d) There is no national Programme for Thalassemia. The patients are treated in the normal Health Care Delivery System at all levels.

National Polio Programme

648. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to launch nation-wide drives of National Polio Programme, focusing especially on high risk areas;

(b) if so, whether Government have conclusively identified the high risk areas so that concerted and vigorous efforts are made there; and

(c) whether the help of NGOs, Panchayats and such grassroot bodies be mobilized to effectively cover such areas, emphasizing on door-to-door methods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Government of India conducted nationwide drives of polio immunisation in January and February, 2007. Nationwide rounds (NIDS) will be conducted again in January and February, 2008. Additional polio drives have been conducted during March, April, May, July and August, 2007 in high risk States—Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Delhi and high risk districts of Greater Mumbai, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh. Additional sub-national polio drives (SNIDs) are planned to be conducted in the high risk areas in September, October, December, 2007 and March, April and May, 2008.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.